

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 6, Folder 7

September 2, 1951 -
December 11, 1951

JTB

COMMODORE BATES

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Admiral and ~~C+S~~ ^B DATE:

FROM : Bates

SUBJECT: Letter from Don Felt

1. Inbreaching.
2. Please return.

Thanks ✓

RWB

0182

COMMANDER MIDDLE EAST FORCE

2 September

Dear Rafe

Thanks so very much for your newsy letter written before you went on leave. I hope you had a grand time in California and came back full of p + g and ready to whip out Leyte. I hope also you saw the Bearsys. The last news I have of them is from Ross Cooley and is distressing.

Your report on the College was particularly appreciated because, as you realize, I shall never lose my enthusiasm for what it represents. It is kind of you to recognize what little influence I may have exercised to keep it live and human. I know it is embarked on another successful year, and I shall always be delighted to receive your astute estimate of the situation.

Orchids for your Battle of the Coral Sea. I should like to see it again. By the way, I do not possess copies of your books and would like to "make the list" after I get a more permanent address.

I have just about finished my tour out here — another month and then to a job in Op Nav. Just what and which Op I don't know yet.

It has been an interesting, hot and satisfying

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experiences looking back on whatever success I may have had in the relations or diplomatic field, I think I can offer only ~~two~~ ^{two} bits of advice to a newcomer: first, he must be convinced before coming of the strategic importance of the area; and second, he must sincerely believe in the possibility of a society of differing cultures. The dignity of man is as important out here as it is at home. These people expect to be treated as equals of any man.

Persia has remained closed to the flagship, and we have not shown the flag alongside the British up the river opposite Abadan. However, I did fly up to Tehran to see Mr Grady. That was before the Harrison mission. I haven't given up hope of a satisfactory solution to that problem, incidentally, but I must say Mossadeq's fanatics didn't leave themselves much maneuver room.

The Gulf we know quite intimately and all the oil men associated with it. Some of Arabia's better desert I have traveled by car and more of it has been seen from the air. Enjoyed a trip to Jeddah to talk with our Ambassador there. Am enroute now back to the Gulf after visiting Pakistan and India. Yesterday we looked in at Masira Island where the RAF has an air field

COMMANDER MIDDLE EAST FORCE

and which figured largely in last year's solutions to the Op Prob laid in this area.

Perhaps you have seen Kathryn again and know that she sat this one out and occupied herself with a series of house guests. We had hoped that I could get a generous delay on the next orders and that she could meet me half way for a holiday in Europe. However, ten days is standard for flag officers these days, and I have a dispatch from Chamberlain saying that Kathryn will meet me on U.S. ground.

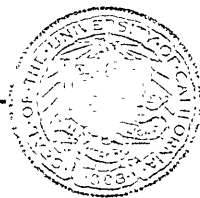
Would you mind telling him that I appreciate the courtesy of sending the message? I was holding all my travel plans in abeyance until I could hear from Kathryn. I suppose he is responsible for the copy of the first term curricula which I received at Bombay. Looks good if they can fill in those holes in the lecture program.

Please give my regards to mutual friends. And all of the best to you.

including ^{to} civilian staff.

Sincerely
Don

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



ROBERT GORDON SPROUL
President of the University

September 4, 1951

Mr. H. J. Bates
2756 Tenth Avenue
Sacramento 18, California

Dear Tiny:

Your letter of August 8 arrived soon after my return from Europe. Thank you for sending on to me your brother's recommendation of Vice Admiral Richard L. Conolly for a chancellorship at this University, with a copy of Admiral Conolly's biography. You may be sure that his name will receive careful consideration for this post and that I am most appreciative of the interest in the University that led you and your brother to make this recommendation.

With all good wishes and kindest personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Gordon Sproul".

0186



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

CAPT WALTER INNES

7 September 1951.

Dear Admiral Bates:

Your letter of the 4th has just been delivered to me, and in order to assure its getting answered properly I will reply now. I am in the Inspector General's organization as a member of the Shore Establishment Survey Board (Rear Adm. Sherman Clark). We depart Washington on Monday morning for Philadelphia to conduct a 3 weeks survey of the 4th Naval District. Thus, the reason for my answering you now.

This work certainly will be educational to me. It will afford an unlimited opportunity to learn not only the physical layout and organization of the Naval Shore Establishment but the workings of the various offices and bureaus of the Navy Department as well. I am sure I will like it, in spite of the fact that the month-in, month-out routine may be weary at times. Perhaps your qualifying me as a "research expert" channeled me into this work. The job of fostering proper organization is dear to my heart, and was the cause of my difficulties that you referred to. It is a joy to me to learn here that this board and office will assure the things that I fought so hard for at Corpus Christi against the wishes of would-be empire builder members of the staff down there.

Thank you for your very kind wishes relative to my selection and promotion to the rank of Captain, and to my work in Korea. I was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal when we reached the West Coast in June. The Phil Sea did a man-sized job for a helluva long time out there. It is a wonderful ship and I consider it a great privilege to have been accorded the opportunity of contributing my two bits worth to the aggregate of what that fine ship is.

Your physical setup in Luce Hall sounds as though it is functionally better than before. As for the echoes of the visual aids, that reminds me of the American sailor who was having sukiyaki with a Japanese girl in Tokyo. With pride he opened his blouse to reveal a tattoo of the American flag that covered his chest, and said to her:

"How you like American?"

She followed suit with the same revealing tactics and said:

"How you like Nipponese?"

I will certainly convey your good wishes to Frances when I get home this evening. As yet we are not permanently settled in living accommodations.

Wishing you the best of success in the continuing work on The Battle of Leyte Gulf. It should turn out to be a monumental piece of work.

With kindest personal regards to you and to all my friends in Newport, and thanking you again for your kind wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

Walter

0187



from S. E. MORISON

44 Brimley Street
Boston 8, MassachusettsAsticou Inn
Northeast Harbor, Me
12 Sep 1957

Dear Rafe

Thanks so much -- in which my wife joins --
for your most kind and appreciative letter about my
retired rank.

Instead of working at the War College this month
on the Battle of the Philippine Sea, as I hoped to do, I am
vegetating up here, owing to a malignant virus that has
been coursing through my blood stream this summer,
coming out at different places. This means I'll have to
skip 1952 in annual publications. But I hope to be
down in Newport some time in the fall and to see you
and Dick Condit.

The success of my history as far as it is concerned
has been due to the careful, meticulous work that you
and your staff have put on the Battle of the Coral Sea,
Midway and Iwo Jima. I wish to heaven you had elected to
do Philippine Sea also!

From:

Sincerely yours

Asticou Inn
S. E. Morison Northeast Harbor,
Maine.

ALBERT D. LASKER
CHRYSLER BUILDING
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

Room 3313

TEL. LEXINGTON 2-9391

October 9th, 1951

Admiral R. W. Bates
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

My dear Admiral:

I cannot resist acknowledging your letter of October 8th, even though I know it doesn't call for reply. I do not think I ever received a more gracious letter than yours, particularly when I consider the modest hospitality involved.

I know I am not old-fashioned, but modern contacts have lost some of their grace in that expressions such as contained in your letter are all too few. I am taking the liberty of sharing it with my wife.

I do hope you will make note to get in touch with me when you are in New York. With you, I think "kicking the ball around" is really one of life's greatest pleasures, and it would give me particular delight to have an early session with one like-minded. One of the profits of this year's World Series to me is the pleasure of having come to know you.

Sincerely,

Albert D. Lasker

0189

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : President

FROM : Head World War II E. G.

SUBJECT: Lecture in New York.

DATE:

15-6-51

1. I enjoyed the trip to New York and the dinner last evening. Thank you!
2. This letter is from a Captain USNR who used to be on the War College Staff.
3. Please return.

R. W. Sachs

0190

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

15 October 1951

My dear Dick:

Many thanks for your letter and clipping which were received last week. I was very much interested in hearing about the appointment of LeRoy Hunt.

It was good seeing you for a minute at Yale and I hope we will see you at least at some of our other games this season.

With best regards in which Margaret joins, I am

Sincerely,



H. W. Hill
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commodore Richard W. Bates, U. S. Navy
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

0191

COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES, FAR EAST

OFFICE OF DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

TOKYO JAPAN

25 October 1951

Dear Rafe:

Your note on the occasion of selection is greatly appreciated. I was very lucky and I realize just how lucky when I consider the number of very able gents who did not make the list. My family and I are, of course, very happy, i.e. insofar as this can be a mutual experience while separated by about 7,000 miles.

This is a very busy and interesting job. We plug away seven days a week. Have managed to get away on several occasions for some very bad golf on the very fine courses. Once my family can join me I am sure I can learn to like Tokyo and the life here. At the moment, however, it is a "far piece" to Arlington, Virginia. I apologize for having taken so long to acknowledge your note. The radical change in "OpArea" and acquainting myself with the many ramifications of an active unified (and United Nations) command are mainly responsible.

One of the nicest things about being selected was the reaction of Admiral Kalbfus. I was glad to be able to justify his interest over a period of quite a few years.

We are making some very interesting, although confused history out here. For WWII you were able to write about those events in which you participated. Would it not be a good idea to come out and take a look at the situation to help you write about these events? Would like to see you again.

Give Admirals Kalbfus and Dietrich and other friends my best regards. Again, many thanks, and my best wishes always.

Sincerely yours,

Tammy Ragans

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN(Ret),
Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island

0192



30 October 1951

Dear "Rafe":

Glad to hear from you but regret that it takes a football season and my close proximity to Municipal Stadium to remind you of the Browns.

I note from your letter that the previous two Commandants have selected you among the thousands for a whack at their Saturday morning bar. If they can stand it I guess I can, so consider yourself in. I am sure we will hold the luncheon. Seriously, Nell and I will be very glad to see you again.

I note your criticism of the Navy team, coaching. I am inclined to agree but gave up coaching sixteen years ago. I have seen the Navy twice, against Princeton and against Pennsylvania. They have size and speed, hit pretty hard, and it is certainly not the worst Navy team I have ever seen.

Give my best to Dick Conolly and any of the old boys still hanging around the reading room. I am sorry I am not close enough to give you an occasional lesson at cowboy, I certainly miss that contact as a source of regular income.

Nell joins me in best regards.

Sincerely,

J. H. BROWN, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.),
Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island.

0193

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1951

Dear Rafe:

As always, it was a pleasure to see you when you were in town last week. Both Estelle and I enjoyed having you for dinner, and we hope that you will come again often.

We had a letter from the Graf's this week, and they tell us they are going south via a route that does not include Washington. They will be very happy to stay with us, however, on their way north next spring if we are still here.

I have never been the head of the Naval Retiring and Review Board. That operates in the Arlington Annex under the old Retiring Law. My job is President of the Physical Disability Appeal Board which came into being with the Career Compensation Act. Our Board only acts in the case of Naval officers. The Marine counterpart of my Board is presided over by Sam Howard. The same two doctors who are in my Board are on his. This may sound a little complicated, I suppose, but that's the way it is.

With all good wishes from both of us, I am

Sincerely,



John L. McCrea
Vice Admiral, U. S. N.

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret)
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

0194

Pearl Harbor - 7 Nov 1951

Dear Admiral Bates:

Arrived here three weeks ago today and have already been thoroughly initiated: caught in a drenching downpour one day, sunburned the next at Keehi Beach, and am now ready for anything. I understand the rainy season has just begun, so I carry my plastic raincoat wherever I go.

I have been assigned to the Plans Office (Captain Ernest Blake), and although I find the work very interesting I will not be employed in steno work as there appears to be no need for that here. However, I'm told that the permanent General Court Martial at COMFOURTEEN is swamped, and further -- because of policies -- I don't stand a chance in that respect. Accordingly, I shall attempt to end my career before Christmas because I have too much time and money invested to let my training go to waste, although I still have many months of study ahead.

It appears as if STOUT's best bet would be here at SERVPAC Headquarters; however, the housing situation is critical and would take about seven to eight months to be assigned quarters, at the present time, unless he is placed in a key billet. Should he desire surface craft duty, I suggest to him COMFOURTEEN or HAWSEAFRON. I'm sure he would enjoy this duty. Until his family arrived he would be berthed and subsisted at the Submarine Base, directly across from the Navy Exchange. A normal tour of duty (which counts as sea duty) is 24 months, and at the expiration of that period a person can request an extension of another year.

From the news I suspect Newport is snowed under. The weather here, with the exception of the rains, is delightful.

Thanks Admiral Bates for everything! I miss you and your office very much!

Very respectfully,

Carlisle

P.S. Your books are in the vault here.

0195

Office of the Deputy Commander
Western Sea Frontier
Treasure Island
San Francisco, California

12 November 1951

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN (Ret)
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Dick:

I have certainly taken my own sweet time in replying to your most welcome letter of the eleventh of October. I have no excuses to make whatsoever.

I talked to your sister-in-law, Mrs. Edward Bates, this morning, and she informs me that your mother is as well as can be expected considering everything. I did not talk with the Doctor, as he was out.

I was shocked to hear Walter Winchell announce a couple of Sundays ago that Brad Norman was seriously ill and was in the Newport Hospital. I hope that this was just another one of his exaggerations, but knowing that Brad had been quite ill before I left Newport, I must accept Winchell's statement.

I have written to Kitty-Mouse, but I do not expect an answer to the letter because it does not require one.

Things here are as usual. Nobody knows anything, and at times I get a little pessimistic about the whole world situation. The self-complacency of our people is something I will never understand. The situation being such as it is I am unable to do any planning for myself or for anyone else. I hope and pray that all will turn out for the best.

As for any news in my family -- on October 28 Mary Lawrence presented us with a granddaughter who is also named Mary Lawrence. The baby was born in Pensacola; mother and child are doing fine, and the father as well as can be expected.

We occasionally see people who have been in Newport recently, and are in that way able to keep up with that sterling community. Adelaide and I miss it very, very much and particularly our friends and you.

0196

Office of the Deputy Commander
Western Sea Frontier
Treasure Island
San Francisco, California

This year, unfortunately, we cannot invite you to have Christmas dinner with us as we have in the past, for we are having dinner and spending Christmas with the Smiths and our Smith grandchildren, all of whom are doing fine. Hal is evidently very successful, and I am so happy for him.

Please give my best regards to Dick, and with my kindest personal regards to you, in which Adelaide joins me, I am as always --

Sincerely yours,

Rose.

T. R. COOLEY
Rear Admiral, USN

*I am going to Sacramento on
Dec 6, for the grandfathers'
club - and will see Tim & them.*

TR.

0197

WALTER G. THOMSON
34 EAST 51ST STREET
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

November 14, 1951

Dear Richard,

It was a pleasure to find you in such good spirits last Tuesday night at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Our paths last crossed by a few days in the Solomon Islands in 1945. You had just left Tulagi when I arrived in Guadalcanal.

The seminar conducted by Vice Admiral Conolly was enjoyed by all my friends present. I absorbed every word, in my great interest in semantics, as well as in the work of the Naval War College. Please give Admiral Conolly a few words expressing my appreciation of his excellent presentation..

Mrs. Thomson joins me in wishing you continued good health.

Sincerely,



Commodore Richard W. Bates, U.S.N.
c/o U.S. Naval War College
Newport R.I.

0198

COMMANDANT, 4TH NAVAL DISTRICT
U. S. NAVAL BASE
PHILADELPHIA 12, PA.



28 November 1951

Dear "Rafe":

Thanks for the cheese. Your friend Nellie was very pleased.

Don't get excited about your cowboy pool. You're like some of these football teams, you win a couple of games and next year get yourself scheduled in the big leagues. If you remember, in order to make our games even I used to play left handed and used an Irish shillalah for a cue.

Remember me kindly to Willie Doyle.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John", followed by a horizontal line.

J. H. BROWN, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.),
Naval War College,
Newport, Rhode Island.

0199

BEVERLEY BOGERT
RUGGLES AVENUE
NEWPORT R. I.

2 East 80th
New York

Dear Baker-ee

I ordered a Cheddar
Cheese, similar to the one we
had at the Reading Room,
to be sent to you as a
small personal gift to
celebrate your victory in
the Bocci Tournament.
More power to you.

The enclosed speaks for
itself. Let me know if
you do not receive it.

Best regards

Bogie

0200

KENILWORTH GARDENS
Scarsdale, N. Y.

December 3, 1951

Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN
Naval War College
Newport, R. I.

Dear Admiral Bates:

I gave the portrait price much thought. Previously, in reference to a similar job, I quoted \$50, or upward, according to size or difficulties involved. If I depended upon portrait-ure instead of my illustrating, that price would hardly make ends meet. But, learning the circumstances in this case, — that you had not expected anything so elaborate, — I felt and still feel that I should not take advantage of you. I thought of asking \$25, and on each reconsideration the price came down. However, I see your point and am therefore billing \$25.

Your photograph was unusually sharp and clear, and presented no tough problems. I really enjoyed the work. The illustrative background was just what I had wanted to do. It was, of course, imaginal, as I had no exact data at hand. I suspected that the gun elevation was exaggerated, but took that license to maintain a certain agreement with other dominant lines ("dynamic symmetry" versus accuracy). Your corrections were most reasonable and easily complied with. I am especially grateful for your expressions of satisfaction.

I shall be equally pleased to paint the portraits for your friends which you mentioned, if they so desire, but cannot promise to meet an early deadline because of other obligations. They should send me their favorite photos, with information as to complexion, color of eyes and hair, and all decorations worn, also type of naval actions or other pertinent subject matter if they like the pictorial background idea. If they ask you about cost you may suggest, as a probable price, whatever you believe is right. I don't mean "all the traffic will stand," but a sum within reason yet dignified.

I understand that you plan to send your picture to your mother. That adds to my pleasure in having had a part in it, and you may be sure that my best wishes to her will also accompany your gift.

Very truly yours,

Henry Allen Farnham
Henry Allen Farnham

0201

Kenilworth Gardens,
Scarsdale, N. Y.
December 8, 1951

Dear Admiral Bates;

My face might be flame-red over the failure to sign my letter, if I thought that would do any good, or I might claim it to be a gesture of self-effacement, but I am not consistently that modest. The only possible explanation is that I was twice interrupted while preparing the letter to mail on my way home and the resulting haste tripped me into the oversight.

Thank you heartily for your check, — especially noting the unexpected amount, — for which I am returning the receipted bill, with my completed letter.

With kindest regards, and appreciation of your sense of fairness and high principle,

Yours, very truly,

Henry Allen Farberman.

0202

Henry A. Faruchan,
Kenilworth Gardens,
Scarsdale, N.Y.

December 3, 1951

Rear Admiral R.W. Bates USN,
Naval War College
Newport, R.I.

For portrait sketch

~~\$28.00~~
37.50

Received payment, 12/6/51
with thanks.

Henry A. Faruchan,

0203

DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (OPERATIONS)
WASHINGTON

VADM FIFE?

10 December 1951

My Dear Rafe:

Many thanks for yours of 4 December which came in last week. I can readily understand the confusion regarding the lash-up in the command structure of Submarines, Southwest Pacific, during the war.

Soon after we were pushed out of the Philippines and Java, Charlie Lockwood arrived on the scene and took over from Wilkes. During the early summer of 1942 Christie arrived Brisbane with some S boats from Panama. These were augmented by some more of the same class from Western Australia and Skinny Rockwell was put over Christie when the former came out of Corregidor. This hurt Christie's feelings, but Rockwell did not stay very long. Then, I came down from New Guinea and relieved Christie just before Christmas. At that time, I believe, it was still Task Force 42 but was soon thereafter changed to Task Force 72. This was the only command that I know of during the war which operated simultaneously under two area commanders. From the time I took over and until I left Milne Bay on 16 March 1944, I worked both for MacArthur and Halsey, and apparently satisfied them both. Bill Halsey has said on many occasions since then that when he first came to Brisbane I was the only one on speaking terms with everybody in MacArthur's headquarters and Carpenter's headquarters.

Before I took over Task Force 72, Charlie Lockwood endeavored to get Christie's command under his wing. This was without success. Christie came home to take over the Torpedo Station at Newport and clean up the torpedo mess which he, if anyone, was responsible for during the years before the war started. Actually, he was only in command at Newport for one day. This was because of the tragic accident wherein Bob English and a lot of his people were killed. As I recall, this occurred in February 1943 and resulted in Lockwood being shifted to SubPac and Christie bounced right back out to Australia and relieved Lockwood. When the latter first arrived at Brisbane, he wanted to stay there and relieve me and have me go to take a subordinate command under him at Perth. Chips Carpenter set him back on his ear and told him to get on over to Perth and take Lockwood's job. That summer Christie made one more attempt to interfere with my business and inject himself into the chain of command between Carpenter, Halsey, and myself. He again had his ears pinned back for his pains. However, in early 1944 when the Solomons campaign was over, a directive from Cominch came out setting up the single command of Submarines, Southwest Pacific. This is where the 15 February 1944 date comes in, as you have indicated in your letter. It was soon after this that a message came out stating that my services were needed on the staff of Cominch, and I was relieved by Haines on 15 March

0204

and departed Milne Bay the next morning. As you know, I went back out there and relieved Christie at Christmas time 1944. Since I moved up into Subic Bay in the Spring of 1945, we closed out the Brisbane command, and I think this is where the 10 March 1945 date comes in.

I believe that the above information will reconcile the conflict which exists in your mind regarding the command structure at that time. However, please do not hesitate to call on me for any further information. After the war, in the Fall of 1945, I had Bill Hazzard go through the entire files of Submarines, Southwest Pacific, and had him box them up and take them back to Pearl Harbor. Apparently, there are many gaps in these files from a historical point of view. I believe that this was probably incurred because so much was done by dispatch and the dispatch files were destroyed without having their essential parts incorporated in the files which were retained for historical purposes. As indicated to you in the past by me, one of the big mysteries is why a submarine was not stationed in San Bernardino Strait for the Leyte operation as had been done for the Marianas landing in June 1944. Had one been there, the whole story of Leyte Gulf might have been entirely different.

My kindest to you and yours for the Holliday Season and 1952.

Most sincerely yours

Jimmy

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN
Naval War College
Newport, Rhode Island

0205

Pavelle Color Incorporated

PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORIES

December 11, 1951

R. W. Bates
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.
Naval War College
Newport, R. I.

Dear Admiral Bates:

We are in receipt of your water color painting as indicated in your letter of December 7. In accordance with your instructions, we will commence work on it as soon as possible.

Permit us to point out that this time of the year is generally an extremely busy one for our laboratory. This year being no exception, it is extremely difficult for us to adhere to normal delivery schedules. Although we would normally complete your order within two weeks, it may be necessary to ask you to bear with us for a slightly longer period.

We know the results achieved will meet with your complete approval, and ask your indulgence inasmuch as this is the only way in which we can render our usual high calibre of work.

Cordially,

PAVELLE COLOR, Inc.



Al Golub, Manager
Industrial Service

AG:lr

0206